

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 30-33 and 63-70 remain pending, Claims 15-29 and 34-62 having been canceled. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Office Action presented the following issues: Claims 15-18, 20-23, 26-29, 34-44, 46-49, and 52-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2004/0160630 to Iriyama et al. (hereinafter “Iriyama”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2003/0011633 to Conley et al. (hereinafter “Conley”) and U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2002/0138567 to Ogawa (hereinafter “Ogawa”); Claims 19, 24-25, 45, and 50-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Iriyama, Conley, Ogawa, and U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2004/0193717 to Tajima et al. (hereinafter “Tajima”); and Claims 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Iriyama, Conley, Ogawa, and U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2004/0239975 to Kawaura et al. (hereinafter “Kawaura”).

Applicants maintain their traversal of the outstanding rejections for at least the reasons set forth in the Request for Reconsideration filed July 27, 2010. Nevertheless, Applicants have canceled Claims 15-29 and 34-62 without prejudice or disclaimer and submit herewith new Claims 63-70 to expedite prosecution of this application.

New Claims 63-66 find support at least in Figures 25-27 and in the specification from page 67, line 16, to page 73, line 10. Claims 63-65 correspond to claims granted for counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-362344. Independent Claim 66 sets forth subject matter related to independent Claim 63 in a different statutory class.

New Claims 67-70 find support at least in Figures 57-59 and 75 and in the specification from page 120, line 3, to page 128, line 5, and from page 152, line 3, to page

153, line 22. Claims 67-69 correspond to claims granted for counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. 2005-362345. Independent Claim 70 sets forth subject matter related to independent Claim 67 in a different statutory class.

Applicants submit that independent Claims 63, 66-67, and 70 patentably distinguish over Iriyama, Conley, and Ogawa.

Independent Claim 66 is directed to a method implemented by an image forming apparatus, the method including, in part,

receiving, at [a] Web browser of the image forming apparatus, screen data of a user interface of [an] image forming function in a response to [a] screen update instruction;

displaying . . . the user interface . . . at an operation part of the image forming apparatus by using the screen data . . . ;

sending, with the Web browser . . . , a request to [an] external processing apparatus, when a request with respect to the image forming function is received from the user interface . . . ;

receiving, at a Web service server of the image forming apparatus, an instruction of an execution of the image forming function based on the request . . . ; and

executing, with the Web service server, the image forming function based on the instruction

No proper combination of Iriyama, Conley, and Ogawa discloses or suggests those features.

For at least analogous reasons, it is submitted independent Claim 63 (and associated dependent Claims 64-65) patentably distinguish over Iriyama, Conley, and Ogawa.

Independent Claim 70 is directed to a method implemented by an external processing apparatus, the method including, in part,

sending, with a Web server of the external processing apparatus, screen data of user interfaces of [a] first image forming function of [a] first image forming apparatus and [a] second image forming function of [a] second image forming apparatus to the first image forming apparatus

receiving, at the Web server . . . , a request . . . in a response to the screen data . . . ;

instructing, with a Web service client of the external processing apparatus, an execution of the first image forming function . . . to the first image forming apparatus based on the request . . . ; and

instructing, with the Web service client . . . , after a reception of a response to the instructing . . . , an execution of the second image forming function . . . to the second image forming apparatus based on the request

No proper combination of Iriyama, Conley, and Ogawa discloses or suggests those features.

For at least analogous reasons, it is submitted independent Claim 67 (and associated dependent Claims 68-69) patentably distinguish over Iriyama, Conley, and Ogawa.

It is further submitted that Tajima and Kawaura fail to remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Iriyama, Conley, and Ogawa.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is patentably distinguished over the applied references. The application is therefore in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.



James J. Kulbaski
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 07/09)

Brian R. Epstein
Registration No. 60,329